

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

*A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy*

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June 13, 2011

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## **Presidential Determination on Assistance to Libya, Côte d'Ivoire**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
June 9, 2011

June 8, 2011  
Presidential Determination No. 2011-11

### **MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

**SUBJECT:** Unexpected Urgent Refugee and Migration Needs Related to Libya and Côte d'Ivoire

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (the "Act"), as amended (22 U.S.C. 2601(c)(1)), I hereby determine, pursuant to section 2(c)(1) of the Act, that it is important to the national interest to furnish assistance under the Act, in an amount not to exceed \$15 million from the United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund, for the purpose of meeting unexpected and urgent refugee and migration needs, including by contributions to international, governmental, and nongovernmental organizations and payment of administrative expenses of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the Department of State, related to the humanitarian crises resulting from the violence in Libya and Côte d'Ivoire.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

BARACK OBAMA

## **U.S. Endorses IAEA Action Against Syria on Nuclear Site**

By Jeff Baron | Staff Writer

Washington — The United States is applauding the effort by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to hold Syria to account as a nuclear scofflaw.

Syria has been under international scrutiny in recent weeks for killing hundreds of people and jailing thousands during peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations. But the action against it June 10 came for something it did in secret years ago: the construction of what the IAEA board of governors says seems to have been a nuclear reactor designed to produce large amounts of weapons-grade plutonium.

An Israeli bombing raid in 2007 destroyed the Dair Alzour site in the Syrian desert.

The IAEA has sent the matter to the U.N. Security Council for further deliberations.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called the IAEA board's vote "an important step given the troubling findings in the IAEA's latest report — including Syria's demonstrated refusal to cooperate with the IAEA investigation and its attempts to construct a secret nuclear reactor with the assistance of North Korea. We fully welcome the IAEA's actions today to address this issue with the seriousness it deserves."

Like other signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Syria has an obligation to cooperate with IAEA investigators and to report its nuclear activities.

"Syria is challenging the authority of the IAEA and the integrity of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty regime," Clinton said in a statement. "The only way Syria can demonstrate that it has come back into full compliance with the NPT is by cooperating with the IAEA and providing the necessary information and access."

A statement from the White House press secretary said the IAEA board's decision "marks a significant action by the international community to uphold the nonproliferation rules of the road."

"The United States remains determined to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons," the White House statement said. "We will work with partners and allies around the world to stand together to insist that every country meet its responsibilities or be held accountable for its actions."

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association in Washington, said the IAEA's unusual action reflected "a great deal of frustration" over Syria's failure to respond to the agency's efforts to investigate the reactor site. "We think it's an important step because it demonstrates that failure to comply with IAEA safeguards has consequences," Kimball said. "The next step is for Syria to follow through with its pledge of cooperation."

Kimball said the IAEA action isn't just about Syria: "It's about every country. The IAEA safeguard system is, in many ways, the backbone of the effort to make sure that peaceful nuclear energy is not used for military purposes. And if one country disrespects safeguards, doesn't follow the letter of their obligations, let alone the spirit, then that sets a dangerous precedent."

## **Secretary Gates Says NATO Security Gains in Afghanistan Can Be Sustained**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer

Washington — Defense Secretary Robert Gates says the

gains made in Afghanistan by the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) over the past two years can take root and be sustained over time with proper allied support.

"Far too much has been accomplished, at far too great a cost, to let the momentum slip away just as the enemy is on its back foot," Gates said in a June 10 speech to the Security and Defense Agenda conference in Brussels. His remarks came at the end of nearly three days of meetings by the NATO defense ministers.

It is Gates' final meeting with NATO as secretary of defense. After 45 years of government service in the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon, he retires at the end of the month. Current CIA Director Leon Panetta has been nominated by the president to become the next defense secretary and recently completed his confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is not expected to have any opposition in the full Senate.

Gates told security experts that troop-contributing nations must continue supporting the security mission and not withdraw forces on their own timelines because of the risks that would create for other nations' forces. The United States is considering the size and pace of a troop drawdown beginning in July, but Gates said, "I can tell you there will be no rush to the exits." That troop drawdown is now being studied by the Defense Department and President Obama, and it will be based on conditions in Afghanistan.

Gates said the vast majority of the U.S. surge forces that arrived in Afghanistan over the past two years will remain through the summer season, and some troops will be reassigned from areas as those areas are transferred to Afghan control.

"As the Taliban attempt their inevitable counterattack designed to increase ISAF casualties and sap international will, now is the time to capitalize on the gains of the past 15 to 18 months — by keeping the pressure on the Taliban and reinforcing military success with improved governance, reintegration, and ultimately political reconciliation," Gates told the security experts.

Afghanistan has been NATO's first major test of the 21st century, and it has exposed shortcomings, Gates said: Members of the 28-nation alliance must examine new approaches to procurement, training, logistics and sustainment to meet the demands placed on a security alliance that is more than a half-century old.

"In the final analysis, there is no substitute for nations providing the resources necessary to have the military capability the alliance needs when faced with a security

challenge," Gates told the conference.

Gates said that the president believes it would be a grave mistake for the United States to withdraw from its global responsibilities. But he also acknowledged that domestic demands for less government spending and smaller government will affect the resources devoted to national security.

"The relevant challenge for us today, therefore, is no longer the total level of defense spending by allies, but how these limited and dwindling resources are allocated and for what priorities," he said.

#### DEFENSE MINISTERIAL

During the NATO defense ministers' meetings, they endorsed a decision to extend the NATO-led coalition air operations over Libya for an additional 90 days from the end of June, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said. "This sends a clear signal that NATO will stay the course and will keep up the pressure for as long as it takes to bring this crisis to an early conclusion," he said June 8.

For the first time in three years, the 29-member NATO-Russia Council defense ministers met to address a range of issues, including work on missile defense, Libya, Afghanistan and shared projects.

The defense ministers discussed the European missile defense plan for the first time since the 2010 Lisbon NATO Summit. The summit set in motion renewed NATO-Russia discussion on theater missile defense, as well as discussions on possible ways to cooperate on territorial missile defense, according to NATO.

"While [the defense ministers] agreed that NATO and Russia are coming closer to reaching agreement on the key principles which should govern this cooperation, more work will need to be done over the next few months," a NATO statement said June 8.

#### Needs of Disabled Persons Unmet, Report Finds

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer

Washington — A new global overview finds that more than 1 billion persons live with some form of disability, and an estimated one-fifth of the population — up to 190 million — face significant difficulties because of it.

The World report on disability, released jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank June 9, examines the status of disabled persons globally, and concludes that few countries are capable of meeting the needs of this segment of the population, despite international accord that human rights principles should

be accessible to all, regardless of disability.

“Almost every one of us will be permanently or temporarily disabled at some point in life,” said WHO’s director-general, Dr. Margaret Chan, as the report was released in New York City. “We must do more to break the barriers which segregate people with disabilities, in many cases forcing them to the margins of society.”

Disabled persons meet with institutional incapacity for their needs at all stages of life – in education, in the workplace and in health care, according to the report. In health care, they are twice as likely to find the skills of health care providers do not meet their needs; they are three times as likely to be denied health care.

Children with disabilities are less likely to start or finish school. As adults, they are less likely to find work. The WHO report cites figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development that about 44 percent of persons with disabilities are employed compared to 75 percent of the adult population at large.

The report urges governments to step up their actions for this population segment, with a national disability strategy and a plan of action to achieve it. Education programs should be put in place to reduce stigmatization, and people with disabilities should be included in the development of these new policies and practices, it says.

Progressive programs to enable people with disabilities and to broaden social access for all are highlighted in the report. For instance, in the Brazilian city of Curitiba, the public transport system has adopted universal design, and in Vietnam, disabled children are mainstreamed in schools with revised policies and improved building accessibility.

The United States has been working since 1988 to improve social policies and remove physical barriers to better serve this population through the Americans with Disabilities Act. On the 20th anniversary of the law in 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said, “Discrimination against persons with disabilities is not only an injustice, it is a strain on economic development, a limit to democracy, a burden on families, and a cause of social erosion.”

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006, commits nations to remove obstacles that limit persons with disabilities. It has been signed by almost 150 nations, and ratified by 100. Its stated purpose is “to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.”

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>)